



BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

Bowers Fire Co.
Camden Wyoming Fire Co.
Carlisle Fire Co.
Cheswold Fire Co.
Citizens' Hose Fire Co.
Clayton Fire Co.
Farmington Fire Co.
Felton Fire Co.

Frederica Fire Co
Harrington Fire Co
Hartly Fire Co
Houston Fire Co
Lepac Fire Co
Little Creek Fire Co
Magnolia Fire Co
Marvdel Fire Co
Robbins Hose Fire Co
South Bowers Fire Co
Smyrna American Legion Ambulance

August 1, 2005

Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi:

The first responders of Kent County, Delaware went on record concerning the possible realignment of the Delaware Air National Guard military installation. The Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association urges you to convey its interest in maintaining the 166th Airlift Wing military installation, located in New Castle, Delaware. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:

- A critical and strategic location near all northeast corridor major metropolitan and port areas
- A training modern, up-to-date training facility with the capability to expand and accommodate larger numbers of personnel
- A vital part of Homeland Defense and Security for the east coast
- Availability for emergency preparedness and operations
- The huge economic impact to our local region
- Working joint operations including all services
- Strong support from the community

We do not always realize just how much our bases contribute to our national defense. The Delaware Air National Guard base supports the Department of Defense and all military missions and they figure prominently in a "good sense" solution to the country's military structure of the future.

We urge you to keep these facts in mind and remove the 166th Airlift Wing from the Pentagon's recommended list of base closures.

Sincerely,

Sophie F. Dear
Sophie F. Dear, Secretary

Contact information:

Sophie F. Dear, Secretary
Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association
48 W. Tidbury Drive, Dover, DE 19901